

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /087 W
-----086799 020946Z /10

P R 020842Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9616
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KS
SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS INTERPELLATIONS OF ROKG

SUMMARY: ON THURSDAY MORNING, OPPOSITION LEADER YI LED OFF
QUESTIONING OF ROKG POLICIES IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT THIS
FIRST SESSION OF TWO-DAY SHOW WAS RUN-OF-THE-MILL. END
SUMMARY.

1. ON MARCH 2, OPPOSITION NDP HEAD YI CH'OL-SUNG LED OFF
AS FIRST QUESTIONER IN TWO-DAY PERIOD SET ASIDE FOR INTER-
PELLATIONS OF GOVERNMENT. SPEAKING FROM A PREPARED TEXT
AVAILABLE TO SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE IN ADVANCE,
YI RAISED THE EXPECTED POLITICAL ISSUES: PROPOSAL THAT
ASSEMBLY FORM COMMITTEE TO DEBATE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM,
RECISSION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE 9 (EM-9), RELEASE OF PRISONERS,
REVISION OF ELECTION LAW FOR DELEGATES TO NATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR UNIFICATION (NCU), CONTROLS ON PRESS,
PAK TONG-SON CASE, PROPOSAL FOR KOREA-US-JAPAN TRI-
LATERAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES SUCH AS
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INFLATION, LOW WAGES, AND PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE VALUE-
ADDED TAX (VAT). YI DEPARTED FROM HIS TEXT FREQUENTLY
TO EXPAND ON AND EMPHASIZE POINTS, MAKING HIS SPEECH
SOMEWHAT MORE POINTED THAN IT APPEARS IN PRINT. HOWEVER,
NONE OF HIS POINTS WAS EXCITING ENOUGH TO AROUSE USUAL
SHOUTS OF SUPPORT FROM HIS FELLOW NDP ASSEMBLYMEN.
PERHAPS ONE ELEMENT WHICH WAS UNEXPECTED WAS YI'S

SPECIFIC QUESTION WHETHER ROKG INTENDED TO CARRY OUT ELECTIONS FOR NCU DELEGATES UNDER EM-9.

2. PRIME MINISTER CH'OE KYU-HA TOOK ROSTRUM TO ANSWER YI'S QUESTIONS, PRODUCING ANOTHER OF HIS MATTER-OF-FACT, EVEN PLODDING PERFORMANCES. IN BRIEF, HE WAS NEGATIVE ON ALL YI'S CHALLENGES TO PRESENT POLITICAL SYSTEM, EXCEPT AREAS WHERE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS NO COMPETENCE: FORMATION OF COMMITTEE TO DELIBERATE CONSTITUTION (WHICH IS PURELY LEGISLATIVE MATTER, AND PARDON OF PRISONERS, (WHICH IS AUTHORITY RESERVED TO PRESIDEN). PM WAS PARTICULARLY DEFINITE IN HIS STATEMENTS THAT IT IS "NOT YET TIME" TO REPEAL EM-9 OR TO REVISE SYSTEM OF ELECTING NCU DELEGATES. HIS RESPONSE TO PAK TONG-SON QUESTION WAS SIMPLY TO RECOUNT THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH AGREEMENT FOR PAK TO TESTIFY IN US HAD BEEN REACHED, AND TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF SEPARATING THIS ISSUE FROM COMPENSATION FOR TROOP WITHDRAWALS. PM DID LEAVE DOOR OPEN A CRACK ON RELEASE OF "IMPRISONED PERSONAGES" (READ "POLITICAL PRISONERS"), FIRST EMPHASIZING THAT "ONLY 140" OR SO REMAIN, ACCORDING TO DEPARTMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, BUT THEN CONTINUING THAT ROKG WOULD "TRY TO RELEASE THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NDP SHOULD BE MANEUVERING TO BURNISH ITS REPUTATION AS OPPOSITION PARTY, IN ANTICIPA-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WITHIN NEXT 12 MONTHS, YI'S QUESTIONING DID NOT SEEM AS POINTED AND DARING AS MANY IN NDP HAD HOPED.
STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL01696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780095-0587
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803114/aaaadswo.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72d7bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3139948
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS INTERPELLATIONS OF ROKG SUMMARY: ON THURSDAY MORNING, OPPOSITION LEADER YI LED OFF QUESTIONING OF ROKG POLICIES IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
TAGS: PINT, KS, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72d7bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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